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ing,' a fate to which land and-water forms are stated to fall prey. An example of a country that has apparently gone wading 'up to its knees' has been mentioned in a previous article (No. 498).

A favorite habit of physiographers is to represent rivers as wandering around with the intent of 'discovering' something, or 'attacking' or 'defending' themselves against a foe. 'Strategy' and 'tactics' are employed by a class of desperate characters known technically as 'pirates,' which, when successful, result in the 'decapitation' or 'capture' of the object of their 'assault.' The mysteries of 'sand-tactics' and 'island-tying' are revealed only to the initiated who have fully mastered this hierarchal language. We forbear to enumerate further examples, or to offer presumptuous comments on the nomenclature; but if any shall be so bold as to contend that it is dignified, and sanctioned by tradition and good taste, we may venture to entertain some doubt. C. R. EASTMAN.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY.

SPECIAL ARTICLES.

'BERYLLIUM' OR 'GLUCINUM.'

SINCE the Council of the American Chemical Society has requested the smaller International Committee on Atomic Weights to submit the question of choice between the two names 'beryllium' and 'glucinum' to the whole or larger committee in order that uniformity of usage may be secured it is evident that a considerable difference of opinion exists among American chemists as to the advisability of adopting the latter name.

The question is one of decided importance in indexing our chemical literature, and as I have had this matter brought continually to my attention during the preparation of a bibliography of the element, now complete in card form, I should like to present the very strong reasons for the universal use of 'beryllium,' at least as they appear to me. These reasons are two and may be summarized as (1) priority and (2) usage.

Priority.—It has been generally supposed by chemists who have not carefully looked into the matter that the name 'glucinum'

or at least 'glucine' originated with Vauquelin, the discoverer of the element, but this is not the case. In fact a distinction should be made between the terms 'glucinum' and 'glucine' for the former first came into use many years afterward when the metal itself was obtained and the real claim for priority must be a question between 'glucine' and 'berylerde' from which the others were derived.

Vauquelin himself uses the clause 'la terre du Béril' exclusively in his first two articles on the subject in speaking of the new oxide he had discovered (*Annales de chim.*, 26, 155, and 26, 170). The term 'glucine' was proposed by the then editors of the *Annales*, Guyton and Fourcroy, in a note at the end of Vauquelin's first article and signed simply 'Redacteur.' Vauquelin evidently presented his results for the second time to the French Society of Mines, for they again appear in the *Journal des mines*, 8, 553. Here also Vauquelin uses only the clause 'la terre du Béril' but gives support to the term 'glucine' by a note at the end of his article as follows: "La propriété la plus caractéristique de cette terre étant de former du sels d'une saveur sucrée, les Cens. Guyton et Fourcroy m'ont conseillé de lui donne le nom de glucine de ($\gamma\lambda\upsilon\kappa\eta\varsigma$), doux, Cette denomination sera assez significative pour aider le mémoire; elle ne prendra pas dans son étymologie un sens trop strictement déterminé, et ne présentera pas d'ideas fausement exclusive, comme celles que l'on tire du nom de la pierre qui fourni le premier échantillon de la substance nouvelle, etc."

Vauquelin's adoption of 'glucine' appears from the character of the argument he puts forth to be at least half hearted. He first actually employs 'glucine' in his third article entitled 'Analyse de l'émeraude du Péron' (*Annales de chim.*, 26, 259), prefacing its use with 'on a donné le nom de glucine.'

The clause 'la terre du Béril' was translated into German as 'Berylerde' in the reprints of Vauquelin's articles and became the name used thereafter by all of the German and Swedish chemists who did much the larger portion of the work of developing the chemistry of the element.

Usage.—If 'use is the law of language' then the supporters of 'glucinum' have little upon which to base their argument. By far the larger number of investigators of the element and its compounds have used and are using 'beryllium.' All the leading chemical journals of the world with the exception of those in the French language give preference to the latter term and in most cases use it exclusively. The German, Swedish and Dutch chemists who have the greater number of original articles to their credit use no other. Italians use 'berillio' from the same root. English journals until recently used the name preferred by the particular author but they have now almost ceased to put even the 'glucinum, see beryllium' in their indexes.

For American chemists to attempt to bring the world to the use of 'glucinum' when by far the majority of chemical journals have dropped it even as a synonym is, in my opinion, worse than useless even if there was a preponderance of argument in its favor.

CHARLES LATHROP PARSONS.

NEW HAMPSHIRE COLLEGE,
November 11, 1904.

CURRENT NOTES ON METEOROLOGY.

CLIMATE OF BALTIMORE.

THE Maryland Weather Service has issued a valuable 'Report on the Climate and Weather of Baltimore and Vicinity,' by Dr. O. L. Fassig, section director of the U. S. Weather Bureau in Baltimore, and in charge of meteorological instruction in Johns Hopkins University. This volume ('Special Publication,' Vol. II., Part Ia., 1904) was preceded, in 1899, by Vol. I., in which a report on the physiography of Maryland was followed by papers on 'The Aims and Methods of Meteorological Work, Especially as Conducted by State Weather Services,' by Professor Cleveland Abbe; 'A Sketch of the Progress of Meteorology in Maryland and Delaware,' by Dr. O. L. Fassig, and an 'Outline of the Present Knowledge of the Meteorology and Climatology of Maryland,' by F. J. Walz. The present report is modelled on the lines of climatological discussions laid down by Hann, in his 'Handbuch der Klimatologie,'

Vol. I., and is the first, in point of completeness and thoroughly scientific quality, of American publications on the climatology of special areas. There are numerous graphic illustrations of the variations of the different elements, which help greatly in an adequate understanding of the conditions discussed. Each element is considered with reference to (a) its diurnal period, (b) its annual period, and (c) its variability, or non-periodic aspects of long and short duration. In the present issue, Part Ia, atmospheric pressure and temperature are considered. The discussion of humidity, precipitation, cloudiness and sunshine, and winds, is reserved for a later issue, now in press. Part II. will concern 'Weather.' Dr. Fassig is to be congratulated on the successful accomplishment of what has certainly been an arduous task. He has the satisfaction of knowing that he has given American climatology an impetus which it sadly needed.

CYCLONES OF THE FAR EAST.

IN 1897 there was published by the Manila Observatory a monograph entitled, 'Baguios ó Ciclones filipinos,' in which Father José Algué, S.J., director of that institution, summarized what was then known concerning the typhoons of the Philippine Islands. A German translation, by Dr. Paul Bergholz, appeared in 1900, under the title, 'Die Orkane des fernen Ostens,' and an English translation of Dr. Bergholz's translation, by Dr. R. H. Scott, was published in 1901. In an enlarged edition, with the addition of newer material, and of a more complete discussion, we now have a volume of 283 quarto pages (Manila, 1904), issued as a 'Special Report of the Director of the Philippine Weather Bureau,' and bearing the stamp, Department of the Interior, Weather Bureau. The title has been changed to 'The Cyclones of the Far East,' because the field covered is larger than that in the case of the first edition of 'Baguios ó Ciclones filipinos.' Among the more notable additions to the new edition are a fourth part, dealing with practical rules for navigating, and giving a list of ports of refuge in the far east, especially in the Philippine Archipelago; a new